

### What is Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP)?

Pneumonia is a lung infection caused by bacteria. Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) is a specific kind of pneumonia diagnosed when a patient in an intensive care unit (ICU) contracts pneumonia while on external breathing support (a ventilator) through a breathing tube for more than 48 hours.

VAP can develop in patients for many reasons. Machine assisted breathing suppresses a patient's normal coughing, yawning, and deep breath reflexes. This may be combined with a depressed immune system, making them more vulnerable to infections, like pneumonia. It is treated with antibiotics.

### How is VAP calculated?

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of ICU cases of VAP after 48 hours of mechanical ventilation}}{\text{Total \# of ventilator days for ICU patients 18 years and older}} \times 1000$$

### Trillium Health Centre's VAP Data:

Trillium-Mississauga	Q1 2010/11	
Ventilator Associated	# of Incidents	Rate
Pneumonia	1	1.59

### What is Trillium Health Centre doing to prevent VAP?

Trillium Health Centre is compliant with the four evidence-based elements of the VAP bundle representing best practices as recommended by Safer Healthcare Now (SHN), including:

- Elevation of the head of the patient's bed to between 30 and 45 degrees
- Use of EVAC tubes (specialty endotracheal tubes) for the drainage of subglottic secretions
- Daily sedation interruption and spontaneous breathing trials to assess readiness to extubate
- Use of oral versus nasal tubes for access to the trachea or stomach

### What can patients and their families do to help reduce their chances of infection?

Patients and visitors can help reduce the spread of infection by performing proper hand hygiene. Hand sanitizer is conveniently located throughout the hospital. For more information please read about the Clean Hands Protect Lives campaign at [www.oha.com/cleanhandsprotectlives](http://www.oha.com/cleanhandsprotectlives).

### What is Trillium Health Centre doing to improve patient safety?

At Trillium Health Centre, we are always looking at how we are performing and use different *performance indicators* to get a sense of where we excel and where improvements could be made. This information is essential to Trillium's commitment to providing quality and safe care for its patients.

Our Board of Directors and Management Team believe it is important that the community we care for has access to this performance information. Trillium strongly supports the provincial government's new public reporting regime because we believe it will inspire improved performance, enhance patient safety, and strengthen the public's confidence in Ontario's hospitals.